Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 10987 01 OF 03 141751Z ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 OIC-02 DHA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 TRSE-00 /122 W

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P R 141750Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1751
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 10987

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: UNESCO, AORG

SUBJECT: US PROPOSAL FOR DUE PROCESS INVESTIGATIVE

MECHANISM: MEETING WITH NINE

REF: PARIS 10197

1. ALL MEMBERS OF NINE ATTENDED MEETING CHAIRED BY UK PERMREP CARR. US PERMREP OPENED SESSION WITH EXPLANATION OF US INITIATIVE STRESSING THE SERIOUS NATURE OF OUR EFFORT AND ALSO GIVING BACKGROUND ON US DOMESTIC SITUATION. EACH MEMBER OF NINE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN COPY OF TEXT OF OUR INITIATIVE AND SO WERE FAMILIAR WITH SUBSTANCE. FOLLOWING US PRESENTATION VARIOUS MEMBERS OF NINE OFFERED OPINION AND COMMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 10987 01 OF 03 141751Z

2. VAN USSEL, BELGIUM, LED OFF BY SAYING THAT SINCE MEETING WITH PERMREP HE HAD HAD MORE TIME TO CONSIDER US PROPOSAL AND HAD ALSO DISCUSSED IT WITH BRUSSELS. HE THOUGHT THE US CONCEPT "CONSTRUCTIVE", HOWEVER, VAN USSEL EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBTS WHETHER THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA OF THIS

EXBD. HE SAID THAT UNESCO HUMAN RIGHTS PROCEDURES WERE CONCERNED MORE WITH CASES BROUGHT BY INDIVIDUALS AND NOT PROBLEMS OF ONE MEMBER STATE AGAINST ANOTHER. HE SAID THAT UNESCO PROCEDURES WERE TIED TO CERTAIN CONVENTIONS AND WERE NOT OF A GENERAL NATURE. VAN USSEL SUGGESTED THAT A BETTER AGENDA ITEM MIGHT BE 3.1. METHODS OF WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION WHICH IS A REPORT TO THE DG. ON SUBSTANCE, VAN USSEL SAID THAT THE ILO IS QUITE A DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION FROM UNESCO. HE SAID HE FULLY SYMPATHIZED WITH THE US INTENTION, BUT THAT THE PRO-POSED COMMITTEE OF INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE REPRESENTATIVES OF STATES AND NOT ACTING IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY. HE SAID UNESCO IS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ITS ORGANS SHOULD REFLECT THAT BASIC CHARACTERISTIC. HE SAID THAT HE WAS THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF INSTITUION-ALIZING THE DNG, WHICH WAS BASED ON GOVERNMENTAL REPRE-SENTATION.

3. AMBASSADOR VALERY, FRANCE, WAS NEXT. HE SAID HE STILL HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM TNE QUAI, BUT HAD HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH BOSSIER-PALUN ABOUT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE DNG AND HE WAS GENERALIY SYMPATHETIC WITH OUR BASIC PURPOSE. BUT HE ALSO WONDERED WHETHER THE US INITIATIVE SHOULD BE CONNECTED WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. HE SAID THE SOVIET BLOC MIGHT TAKE THIS AS AWAY OF TRYING TO WEAKEN UNESCO'S ROLE IN HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER THE DG SHOULD BE GIVEN SO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY. VALERY SAID HE WOULD TEND TO FAVOR REPRECONFIDENTIAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 10987 01 OF 03 141751Z

SENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND NOT INDIVIDUALS ON ANY SUCH COMMITTEE. HE SAID THE ILO EXPERIENCE WAS NOT RELEVANT TO UNESCO.

4. AMB. PETERSEN, FRG, SAID HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AS HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM HOLIDAY. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE DILEMMA FACED BY THE US. THE US, PETERSEN SAID, DID NOT WANT TO PUT A SPEICAL ITEM ON THE AGENDA AS THIS WOULD PROVOKE CONTROVERSY, VOTES AND A DEBATE, AND YET IT WANTS TO HAVE SOMETHING INITIATED BEFORE THE 102ND BOARD. PETERSEN SAID HE DID NOT FEEL ITEM 3.1 (SUGGESTED BY VAN USSEL) WOULD BE A PROPER PLACE TO MAKE SUCH AN INITIATIVE. IT WAS CONCERNED SOLELY WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCILS AND THE DG'S REPORT WOULD MOST LIKELY BE ONLY IN WRITING. HE SAID A US INITIATIVE ALONG THE LINES INDICATED COULD WELL BE RULED OUT OF ORDER UNDER 3.1. THEREFORE. THE

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 10987 02 OF 03 141755Z ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 OIC-02 DHA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 TRSE-00 /122 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 10987

ONLY LOGICAL PLACE WAS THE HUMAN RIGHTS ITEM. PETERSON SAID THAT THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE RISK OF FAILURE IN THE US INITIATIVE AND THAT EVEN EFFORTS TO INSTITUION-ALIZE THE DNG WOULD MEET WITH STRONG OPPOSITION. PETERSON THEN SAID THAT UNDER THE PRESENT HUMAN RIGHTS ITEM THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE US STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ILO PROCEDURES ARE MADE A PART OF THE DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, SUBSTANTIVELY HE DID NOT SEE THE ILO PROCEDURES WORKING AT UNESCO.

5. AMB. CARDUCCI, ITALY, THEN INTERVENED. HE SAID HE ALSO BASICALLY SYMPATHIZES WITH THE US INITITIAVE AND DOES NOT SEE ANY PROBLEM IN OUR MAKING THE STATEMENT UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS ITEM. THEY WOULD PREFER ANOTHER CONTEXT, BUT AT THIS BOARD, HUMAN RIGHTS SEEM-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 10987 02 OF 03 141755Z

ED THE ONLY POSSIBLE PLACE. HOWEVER, CARDUCCI SAID HE WAS THINKING OF ASKING TO ADD A NEW AGENDA ITEM ON "METHODS OF WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD" AND PERHAPS THE STATEMENT COULD BE MADE THEN. HE SAID THAT HIS INTENTION WAS TO DISCUSS THE EXBD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE UNDER THIS NEW ITEM. HOWEVER, CARDUCCI STRESSED THAT THE DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE WHETHER TO ADD THE AGENDA ITEM. AS TO SUBSTANCE, CARDUCCI SAID HE HOPED THE US INITIATIVE WOULD IN NO WAY DIMINISH UNESCO'S ROLE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD AS IT IS PRESENTLY SET UP. HE SAID THAT "DEPOLITIZING" MECHANISM WOULD HAVE TO ULTIMATELY BE APPROVED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND WOULD NOT BE OPERATIVE FOR SOME TIME. HE SAID HE HOPED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT THE US WOULD NOT USE THE TERM "DEPOLITIZATION".

- 6. VAN USSEL THEN INTERVENED AGAIN. HE SAID THAT IF HIS "METHODS OF WORK AGENDA" ITEM WOULD NOT WORK, PERHAPS THE US STATEMENT COULD BE MADE UNDER THE DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. PETERSON CUT HIM OFF BY SAYING THAT HE DID NOT SEE THIS AS POSSIBLE AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE ONLY LOGICAL AGENDA ITEM.
- 7. VAN USSEL THEN STRESSED AGAIN THAT THE EXISTING CONVENTIONS OF UNESCO MUST BE RECOGNIZED AND WE SHOULD NOT REPLACE THE PRESENT HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISM. HE SAID A DEBATE SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF THE US MAKES ITS STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ARABS HAVE AT LEAST TENTATIVELY AGREED TO THE DG'S POSTPONEMENT OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND JERUSALEM MISSIONS AND PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT RAISE THESE ISSUES AT THE 102ND BOARD. VAN USSEL SAID WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO OPEN "PANDORA'S BOX".
- 8. AFTER HEARING ALL THE INTERVENTIONS, WE WERE THEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 10987 02 OF 03 141755Z

ASKED BY THE CHAIRMAN TO RESPOND. WE FIRST RESTATED THAT OUR INITIATIVE WAS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN UNESCO, TO AVOID POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS AND TO MAKE CONTINUED US SUPPORT POSSIBLE. WE SAID THAT THERE WAS NOINTENTION TO WEAKEN UNESCO'S CAPABILITIES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD AND THAT WE WERE MAINLY CONCERNED WITH DISPUTES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES. WE RECOGNIZED THAT ANY INITIATIVE WAS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND WELCOMED ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS. WE STRESSED THAT THE FIRST EFFORT WAS TO INTRODUCE THE PROPOSAL TO THE BOARD AND

THAT SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS WOULD GET INTO MORE PRECISE DETAILS. IN THE INTERIM A PROPOSAL MEETING ALL OF OUR CONCERNS COULD BE WORKED OUT; WE WERE NOT WEDDED TO THE ILO MECHANISM. WE FURTHER STRESSED THAT IN OUR VIEW THE HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA ITEM WAS THE LOGICAL PLACE TO MAKE THE STATEMENT, THAT, AS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY POINTED OUT, IT WOULD BE LOW KEY AND NOT DESIGNED TO PROVOKE A DEBATE. WE SAID THAT IT WAS OUR HOPE THAT THE US INITIATIVE WOULD RECEIVE SUPPORT IN THEIR INTERVENTIONS.

9. CARR THEN SAID THAT AS HE SAW IT, THE US WAS SIMPLY PROPOSING TO MAKE A STATEMENT AND FOLLOW IT UP BY WHATEVER ACTION NECESSARY TO GET THE BASIC INITIATIVE MOVING. HE SAID THAT MARTIN HAD BEEN TALKED TO AND SAW NO PROBLEM OF THE US STATEMENT BEIRG IN ORDER.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10987 03 OF 03 141756Z ACTION IO-13

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 10987

10. A GENERAL DISCUSSION THEN FOLLOWED WITH VALERY, PETERSON AND VAN USSEL TAKING PART. IN SUBSTANCE THEY

AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE US SHOULD NOT MAKE ITS STATEMENT, BUT THEY HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE AS NOW PROPOSED. VALERY AND VAN USSEL BOTH URGED THAT WE DELETE ANY REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT OUR MECHANISM WOULD ALSO HANDLE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. THEY FELT PRESENT UNESCO PROCEDURES WERE ADEQUATE AND SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND NOT CHANGED. VALERY ALSO SAID WE SHOULD NOT USE THE WORD "COMPLAINT" WHEN MAKING REFERENCE TO CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN STATES AS THIS WAS A TERM COMMONLY USED IN INDIVIDUAL CASES AND OUR EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON PROBLEMS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 10987 03 OF 03 141756Z

11. THE MEETING TERMINATED BY THEIR EACH AGREEING TO TAKE THE MATTER UP FULLY AT THE CAPITAL LEVEL AND A REQUEST THAT WE NOT GO TO CAPITALS. THEY ALL SAID THAT IF THE US GOES TO CAPITALS THEY WOULD ONLY HAVE TO REPEAT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL BE GIVEN IN ANY CASE.

12. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE RESPONSE WAS CERTAINLY NOT OVERWHELMING, NO SERIOUS OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED TO OUR PROCEEDING WITH THE STATEMENT. THERE IS MUCH QUESTION-ING OF OUR PROPOSED DEVICE AND NO SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE COMMITTEE CONCEPT WAS EVIDENT. HOWEVER, THERE WAS SUPPORT FOR THE NECESSITY TO HAVE A DEPOLITIZING MECHANISM. VAN USSEL CONCERN STEMMED MAINLY FROM THE FACT THAT HE IS ON THE UNESCO COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND IS AFRAID THAT OUR INITIATIVE WILL SOMEHOW THREATEN THAT COMMITTEE. VAN USSEL WOULD LIKE TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMITTEE, BUT WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO TAKE SECOND TO GARBO OF NORWAY. PETERSON WAS THE MOST POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH SKEPTICAL OF THE PROCEDURES SUGGESTED. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED TO MAKE THE STATEMENT, CAREFULLY AVOIDING ANY INDICATION OF SEEKING TO WEAKEN EXISTING UNESCO INSTITUTIONS AND STRESSING THAT WE ARE ENTIRELY FLEXIBLE AS TO EXACT NATURE OF THE PROCEDURE WHICH MAY ULTIMATELY EVOLVE. WE SHOULD STRESS THAT OUR GOAL IS TO STRENGTHEN UNESCO SO AS TO AVOID THE PITFALLS INHERENT IN CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES. SEPTEL WILL PROVIDE PERMDEL'S ANALYSIS OF APPROACH TO US INTERVENTION. HARLAN

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